

THE ALABAMA QUESTION.

There are grounds for believing that, notwithstanding the sanguine assurances of Mr. Reverdy Johnson, the Alabama difficulty is not going to be settled so quietly as the best friends of both Great Britain and America would wish. The fact is undeniable that with a large portion of the citizens of the Republic, a war with England would be greeted with delight—and educated as many of them have been to regard the mother country as a once powerful nation, but now comparatively weak and in her dotage, their idea is that a fight with England would not be a matter of much account, and would soon result in her signal defeat. The "almighty eagle" which—according to those over whose interests it is supposed to keep a watchful eye,—can "flap its wings and crow over all creation," is, of course, too gallant a bird to be in the least intimidated by the old and effete lion whose claws (vide 4th July orations) were so badly picked at Monmouth and Yorktown. Indeed, so insolent is the tone and bearing of the press and people of the States, that it looks almost as if this Alabama business was brought up on purpose to give an excuse for a quarrel. It might have been settled long ago but for the shilly-shallying of Mr. Seward and the rest of the American Cabinet, who seem to have delayed its final settlement for some purpose of their own. A few of the leading men of the States have manifested a willingness to have the matter arranged on equitable terms, but as usual the noisy and turbulent spirits who have so much to say have managed to have the Alabama difficulty drag along its slow length for over three years—and the end is not yet.

Mr. Reverdy Johnson is apparently overdoing it in making himself so popular in England; and this is the difficulty which now presents itself. Had Mr. Johnson made fewer after-dinner speeches, and shown a cold shoulder to such men as Laird and Roebuck, the probability is that the terms of the proposed Alabama treaty would have been agreed to by the United States and a peaceful settlement ensue. We are not surprised, under the circumstances, to see the disfavor with which the proposed terms are looked upon by the majority of the American people, who appear to think that their ambassador has been "soft-sawdered" by the astute ex-Secretary of State in England, Lord Stanley. Gen. Grant, if we are to believe the statement, has openly expressed his entire dissatisfaction with the treaty as it now stands; and as he is shortly to be the ruling man in the States, his utterances have more than a passing significance. So far as England is concerned, she is not likely to alter the Alabama treaty to suit every passing whim of the American politicians, and certainly will not be bullied into any concession she may regard as unfair to herself. If the two nations cannot agree, there is but the one alternative—and this alternative no patriot can desire. There are certain signs looming up which have a portentous appearance—but for the present we can only wait and watch the progress of affairs—hoping for the best, but bearing in mind that "coming events cast their shadows before."

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The subject of capital punishment has again been brought before the Legislature of the State of New York by a bill for its abolition. The bill not only substitutes imprisonment for the gallows, but provides a Court of Review for all cases where there has been a penalty of imprisonment for life, and the Governor, on the report of this Court, is empowered to change or modify the penalty as he may choose. It would be hard to conceive a bill with more absurd features, or better calculated to give free rein to crime, and nullify all attempts of the Courts to secure its punishment. Legislators in several of the American States seem to have gone mad, as well as in Ontario.

The *Pull Mall Gazette*, commenting on the chances that the Clarendon Johnson treaty will be rejected by our Senate, says: "With the best intentions, Mr. Reverdy Johnson has evidently oversteered the affection of the American people for England, and his countrymen are naturally inclined to disprove his words as soon as may be by some exceptionally hostile act. The opportunity they are in want of is afforded by the right reserved to more than one-third of the Senate to reject any treaty concluded by the Executive."

AMERICAN FINANCE.—The best proof of the forced resumption is afforded by the apathy of the American people with regard to all financial schemes now before Congress. Every plan has been proposed, every phase of the question has received the consideration of the press, but not one has as yet attracted the popular attention. We think the United States will not find any solution to the problem, other than that discovered by England in 1815-24, the natural course of events. All artificial means will be sure to fail.

The Toronto correspondent of the *Montreal Star* says that the mandate withdrawing the troops is already glorified over publicly by a certain class. It is not difficult to guess the class referred to.

Terrible Accident in Montreal.
THE ROOF OF ST. PATRICK'S HALL
FALLEN IN!

NARROW ESCAPE OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES!!

A deplorable accident, by which several persons are supposed to have been seriously injured, if not killed, occurred shortly after midnight on Wednesday night, through the falling in of a large portion of the roof of St. Patrick's Hall. The Concert of Les Comptes Marchands had taken place in the earlier part of the evening, and afterwards, dancing was commenced. About 2,000 people had been present at the concert, and a large part of them remained, when, shortly after midnight, a cry was raised that the roof was giving way. It seems that about 12 o'clock, while the company were engaged in a waltz, then numbering about 150, they were startled by a short, sharp crack, as of a pistol shot, in the roof, directly over their heads. Not much notice was taken of this till a few minutes after, when a second report was heard, louder than the first, and pieces of plaster began to fall. At this moment, Mr. Rastick, whose rooms are beneath the Hall, came running up, and told the superintendent to have the room cleared at once. A panic now seized the people, and a rush was made towards the stairs. The excellent facilities for egress which the Hall afforded, in two wide flights of stairs, leading out upon Craig street, and Victoria Square, allowed the room to be cleared in a surprisingly short space of time, and without much difficulty, else a number of lives must have been lost. The flight of the company was hastened by the increasing noise of the breaking roof, and hardly had the room been cleared, when the entire roof fell in with a tremendous crash.

Mr. Rastick was cut by falling plaster, Constable McCormick was struck in the mouth by a piece of cornice, which knocked out his front teeth. Mr. Daniel Joyce, who had charge of the refreshments, was wounded severely in the chest by falling timber; and Mr. Kerrigan received some cuts about the head. The firemen were quickly on the spot, but fortunately no fire occurred. Mr. Perry and Chief Bennett, accompanied by Dr. Kingston, made a careful survey among the debris to ascertain if any person remained; but they left perfectly satisfied that every one had succeeded in escaping. Before the arrival of the firemen, Mr. B. Tanzy assisted in bringing out four women, two men and a child, whom he found near the refreshment tables, powerless from fright, and who had been miraculously preserved beneath some beams.

An examination of the ruins shows two upper flats to be almost a complete wreck. The great weight of roof falling from such a height caused it to break through portions of the hall floor, into the room beneath. The whole length of the flight of stairs, on the side of the Victoria Square is covered with rubbish; and a huge mass of timbers having broken through the floor, hangs threateningly over the landing, looking as though the slightest movement would precipitate it into the shops below. What was last night a hall, presents now an indescribable scene of wreck and confusion. The large statue of St. Patrick which surmounted the wall on Victoria Square, fell inwards and lies prostrate among the ruins. The building was probably prevented taking fire by James Kerrigan, care-taker of the hall, turning off the gas. Some of the dancers were unwilling to leave the hall, even when repeated cracks denoted the impending catastrophe, and it was in trying to get these out that constables McCormick and Hague found themselves shut in, and only escaped by breaking out of a window. There was a report in circulation of some boys still being missing, but it does not seem to be credited. Messrs. Hutchinson, Brush & Spiers, architects, have been appointed to enquire into the accident. The prevailing opinion seems to be that the iron roof was altogether too heavy for the amount of support afforded.

The *Leader's* despatch states that two persons were killed outright, and thirty others injured.

KINCARDINE SALT WELL.—Mr. Wm. Rastell, Reeve of Kincardine, called at this office yesterday (Thursday) and informed us that the salt spring at that place promises to be a splendid paying concern to the owners. The full depth of the well is 913 feet, and they have cut through 13 feet 8 inches of the solid rock, which now yields from 25 to 27 barrels per day. What has been done as yet is merely preliminary, and it is fully expected that when all the operations are completed in the spring, a yield of not less than 50 barrels per day will be easily extracted. Mr. Rastell left with us a specimen of the salt, which is pure in color, fine in quality, and of course possessing the genuine saline taste. In this country, salt is an absolute necessity on farms; cattle of all kinds require it once a week, otherwise they fall off in condition and eventually become diseased. In every household, and in many branches of business salt is an article of great importance, and it is therefore gratifying to see this article of prime necessity existing and being manufactured in Canada.

To-day was one of the best, if not the best market day this year. Over 10,000 bushels of wheat, and large quantities of barley, peas, oats, hay, hogs, &c., came in. The sleighing is capital, and so long as this continues we will have a lively market.

HOTEL ARRIVALS,
COULSON HOUSE,
GUELPH, Feb. 4th, 1869.
J. C. Townsend, New Jersey; T. M. Leese; Thos. Holby, Brampton; John McLeod, J. W. Davis, Hamilton; Wm. Smith, Durham; Angus McDonald, John McVay, Wm. Fraser and Wife, Miss M. B. Fisher, David Walker, Walkerton; J. Collard, James Hill, Toronto; Wm. Currie, Jas. Harper, J. McDougall, Allan Ritchie, Montreal; Jas. Trout, Meaford; Jasper Bates, Clarksburg; Joseph Barber, Georgetown; W. H. Richardson, Ogdensburg; John Townsend, Harry Townsend and Wife, Burnet Townsend, George Townsend, Alfred Riel, A. Charlesworth, agt. Miss Florence Townsend, Miss Constance Townsend.

MARRIAGES.
HOWARD-SMITH—At Guelph, on the 4th inst., by the Rev. W. F. Clarke, Mr. John Howard to Mrs. Jane Smith, all of Guelph.
FRASER—On the 25th ult., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. J. McMillan, Mr. Pennock, Esq., to Miss Mary Reid, second daughter of William Reid, Esq., all of Egremont.
JOYCE-MARTIN—By the Rev. J. Wilson, on the 18th ult., at the residence of the bride's father-in-law (Mr. H. Johnston), Mr. William Joyce, of Toronto, to Miss Rachel Martin, of Bronte.
HARRIS-COLLING—On the 27th ult., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. W. B. Blackstock, of Milton, Mr. John C. Harris to Sarah, third daughter of John Colling, Esq., all of Lovellville. No cards.

New Advertisements.
ATTENTION!

All debts due by parties at the Rutherford House, and not paid this month, will be put into Court for collection.
R. RUTHERFORD.
Feb. 4, 1869.

GRAND CONCERT!
Town Hall, Guelph,
On FRIDAY EV'G, 5th of February

Under the Patronage of the Venerable Archbishop (Palmer); also, the Worshipful Master and Masonic Fraternity of Speed Lodge.

MISS L. RHEMMIE
Respectfully announces that her FIRST ANNUAL CONCERT in this town will take place as above, assisted by the best Local Talent, Vocal and Instrumental.

Tickets 25 cts each, reserved seats 50 cts., to be obtained at the Book and Music Stores, also at Miss Rhemmie's residence, Waterloo Road. For full particulars see Programmes. Guelph, 25th January. dw

TWO HOURS AT HOME.
Town Hall, Guelph, on Monday and Wednesday, Feb. 8 and 10.

KENNEDY'S SONGS OF SCOTLAND
In addition to a choice selection of Songs, Mr. Kennedy will recite on Monday "WATTY AND MEG, or, HOW TO CURE A SCOUNDREL WIFE."

PIANOFORTE. - MISS KENNEDY
Admission 25c, reserved 50c. Tickets can be had at the stores. Doors open at seven, Concert to commence at eight. Guelph, 25th January. dw

VALENTINES!
VALENTINES, VALENTINES.

The attention of the public generally is called to a very large assortment just received from the cities. Such elegant emblems of love and affection could not possibly be obtained except at this store. The price being low they are within the reach of all. In design they are pronounced to be really elegant. Now is the time for those wishing to manifest their affection to examine the very extensive stock.

AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE.
Guelph, Feb. 5.

MELODEON FOR SALE.
A first-class Melodeon of Bell, Wood & Co's for sale. Apply at this office. Feb. 5, 1869. dw

BOYS WANTED.
Four steady boys wanted to sell the EVANCO MERRYVALE. Apply at this office.

NOTICE.
The undersigned hereby gives notice, that he will not be responsible for any debts contracted in his name by any one, except on his own personal or written authority. M. SHAWAN, Bookseller, Arcade, Toronto, Feb. 5, '69.

RAG CARPET WEAVING.
The subscriber is prepared to do all kinds of Rag Carpet Weaving. All orders left at his shop will be promptly filled. JAMES MITCHELL, Feb 4 3rd St. Opp. Red Mill, Waterloo Road.

TWENTY BOYS
Wanted immediately.—Apply at SHARPE'S SEED STORE. Guelph, Jan. 29, 1869. dot

PIGS STRAYED.
Strayed from the subscriber, Guelph, two large white pigs, one a barrow, with part of both ears off, the other white, with ear torn by a dog. Any person finding them will be suitably rewarded. GEORGE PATTERSON. Guelph, 3rd February, dw

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864 & 1865
In the matter of George Leslie, late of the village of Acton, an insolvent.
The creditors of the insolvent are notified to meet at my office, No. 82 Front Street, Toronto, on the 17th day of February instant, at one o'clock p.m., for the public examination of the insolvent, and the ordering of his estate generally. And the said insolvent is hereby notified to attend the said meeting.
Dated at Toronto this second day of February, 1869. THOMAS CLARKSON, Official Assignee.

TOWN OF GUELPH.
Tenders will be received at this office until SATURDAY EVENING the 13th inst. for supplying the Corporation with
Coal Oil for the current year.
TERMS—Price at per gallon, to be measured on delivery. JAMES HOGG, Town Clerk. Town Clerk's Office, Guelph, 3rd February, 1869. dw

Speed Lodge, No. 180.
THE Regular Monthly Meeting of Speed Lodge, No. 180, will be held in the Masonic Hall, over the Bank of Commerce, on TUESDAY EVENING next, February 9, 1869, at half past 7 o'clock. By order, R. CUTHBERT, Secretary. Guelph, Feb. 4, 1869. dw

DOMINION SALOON
FRESH OYSTERS!
Of the best quality always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice; also for sale by the keg or can. The Bar is supplied with Liquors, Wines, Ales and Cigars, of the choicest brands, likewise with the favorite drink, "Tom and Jerry." LUNCH between the hours of 12 noon and 3 p.m.
DENIS BUNYAN
Guelph, 17th October

Sale of Cloths and Clothing!
STILL GOING ON.

A. THOMSON & CO.

WOULD intimate that as their Mr. Thomson is retiring from business, the whole of their stock must be sold and the business wound up. To facilitate this, they have determined to

Commence a Clearing Sale on Monday, 21st Dec.,
When they will offer their immense stock of

**Cloths and Clothing,
Shirts, Drawers, Hats, Caps, &c.**

AT COST AND UNDER. As this is a rare opportunity of securing first-class Goods at auction prices, they would recommend all to take advantage of the great bargains which shall be given. There will positively be no credit given during this sale. All indebted to the firm are respectfully requested to call and settle their accounts at once.

Guelph 5th February
A. THOMSON & CO
dw

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THE AUCTION SALE
Of Dry Goods, Clothing, &c.,

AT THE RUTHERFORD HOUSE
Will close to-morrow, Saturday Evening.

INTENDING PURCHASERS
will please take note, and avail themselves of the bargains to be secured on this occasion.

Guelph, February 5. dw
R. RUTHERFORD.

NOTICE.

Any account remaining unpaid in my books on the 15th February, 1869, will, without any reservation or distinction of person, be handed into A. A. Baker, Esq., who will receive the amount with costs.

JOHN HOGG,
Feb. 3, 1869. Golden Lion, Guelph.

XXX OYSTER PANIC XXX
AT WILKINSON'S.

PLATT & CO'S BALTIMORE OYSTERS!
RETAIL at reduced prices. WHOLESALE at reduced prices.
Guelph, 3rd February. dw GEORGE WILKINSON, Sole Agent.

NEW CROP TEAS
And BRIGHT SUGARS at

J. & D. MARTIN'S.

TOBACCOS
BRIGHT SMOKING AND BEST CHEWING, at

J. & D. MARTIN'S.
Guelph, 30th January. dw

A. R. McMASTER & BRO.,
ARE NOW OPENING THEIR

FALL IMPORTATIONS,
And will be glad to see their friends and customers at

32 YONGE STREET, TORONTO.
Toronto, September 1. dw

PROSPECTUS
OF
CUTHBERT'S
Circulating Library.

THE Subscriber has pleasure in announcing the establishment of a Library for public circulation. This is a want that is very much needed in Guelph, and from the conviction that it will be an advantage to the public—one which will be felt and appreciated—his institution is undertaken. The best incentive to profitable reading and research is some object or prize apart from the object of developing the mental faculties. Study pursued simply with the latter object in view is difficult and irksome, and not a few are frightened to undertake the task, when they consider the time, patience and labour involved in the acquisition of extensive knowledge. To lessen the influence of such an idea, the subscriber proposes—

1st.—To give free access to his Library for the small sum of \$1.00 per year, payable in advance. The Library consists of a large collection of STANDARD WORKS—Biographical, Historical, and Philosophical; the Novels of the best authors; and the best magazines and Reviews, Papers and Periodicals worth having, of English, American and Canadian publication, will found in connection with this Library.

2nd.—At the end of the year, prizes shall be awarded for the best essays on three distinct subjects—said subjects to be submitted by the subscribers.

3rd.—The information necessary to the essayists to enable them to write on any of the subjects that shall be submitted, shall be fully within the scope of the Library.

4th.—The essays shall be referred to a committee of gentlemen, thoroughly competent to examine them and decide upon their merit.

5th.—According to the decision of the Committee, so shall the prizes be awarded.

6th.—The prize essays shall remain the property of the subscriber, who alone shall possess the right of publishing them.

7th.—Every one, upon payment of one dollar, has the right to compete for any of the prizes, or for all of them.

8th.—As this enterprise is being established for the purpose of giving rise to a healthy mental competition amongst those who may choose to subscribe to the Library, it is thought advisable not to receive less than ten written papers on any of the subjects that shall be submitted, while it is desirable that every member should compete for one or more of the prizes offered.

9th.—The value of the prizes shall not be less than \$5.00 in cash, which will be awarded in cash or otherwise at the option of the successful competitor.

10th.—Any person in any part of the country may become a member, provided he or she can conform to the rule of not retaining a book longer than one month. To those residing in Guelph and vicinity the time allowed shall be two weeks.

11th.—The Subscriber, having made arrangements with some of the largest publishing houses both in England and the United States, to be constantly in the receipt of every new work that comes out, he is confident that nothing shall be wanting on his part to make the enterprise a perfect success.

SUBJECTS:
The best exposition of "Kant's Critique of Pure Reason." Price, \$50.
The best Essay on Political Economy, and that system of it most adapted to the interests of the Dominion of Canada. Price, \$50.
The best Essay on Education. Price, \$50.

His books of reference now are the newest and of the most extensive kind, consisting of the Popular Encyclopedia—in itself a complete library—a Biographical Dictionary, a Chronological Dictionary, and Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

One thousand subscribers are anticipated. The number already obtained, previous to any public announcement, is exceedingly encouraging.

R. CUTHBERT.
N.B.—Cuthbert's Library is not intended to conflict with any public institution, but on the contrary will have a tendency to promote the usefulness of all existing libraries.

OYSTERS!
Of the most approved brands, received by Express from day to day, at WALKER'S Oyster Depot, on Wyndham Street. Although the delicious Livalives are not exactly

Given Away!
The price is made to conform to the times, and FINE PAILFULLS may be purchased on the most moderate terms, either in bags, cans or measured out.

By PAILFULLS
All Oyster-eaters are well aware that H. WALKER is the Sole Agent in Wellington for the great fishing firm of Seppine, Amphibite & Co., and that they employ their most sagacious and experienced Tritons in keeping up the supply of Prime Oysters.

At H. Walker's
It is a well-known fact, that at Walker's, and there only, can the choicest quality of Oysters be purchased. Bring your bowls, bring your basins, bring your pails and get them filled at Walker's.

On WYNDHAM STREET
There never was such a season for OYSTERS, and never such Oysters as Walker is now serving out, sound, sappy and savory.

Guelph, Jan. 27. HUGH WALKER, Opposite English Church

FRESH BISCUITS.
ARROWROOT, ABERNETHY, GINGER NUT, OYSTER CRACKER, VICTORIA, FRUIT, WINE, and CRACKNEL BISCUITS

ENGLISH JAMS.
GREENGAGE, PLUM, RASPBERRY, GOOSEBERRY, STRAWBERRY AND CURRANT JAMS

DRIED APPLES
BUCKWHEAT FLOUR, NEW HONEY, STILTON CHEESE

AT JOHN A. WOOD'S
Guelph, 26th January. dw

NEW METHOD FOR THE PIANO.
Ahead of all competitors is RICHARDSON'S NEW METHOD FOR THE PIANO. Being the only book the teacher requires, and the book every pupil is attracted to. 100,000 copies already sold and the demand greater than ever. 50,000 copies now selling every year. Its lessons are adapted to pupils of all ages, and its exercises attractive and useful in every stage of advancement. This book has on account of its actual merit, become the standard work of piano instruction, and the only one which every well-informed teacher and scholar uses. Price, \$3.75. Sent post-paid on receipt of price. O. DITSON & CO., Publishers, 277 Washington Street, Boston. H. DITSON & CO., 711 Broadway, New York.

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYING LADIES.
CHURCH-ST. - GUELPH

MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 4th of January, 1869.
Guelph, 21st December. dw